

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 SS-15
EB-07 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IGA-02 XMB-02 ACDA-07
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 /111 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:JWHITING:CJ

APPROVED BY AF/E:RSPPOST:

D/HA:MSCHNEIDER

D:MR. OXMAN (SUBS)

EB/IFD/ODF:FTHOMAS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 106156

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IBRD

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS AND IDA LOANS FOR ETHIOPIA

1. AT MAY 10 MORNING MEETING OF IBRD EXECUTIVE BOARD

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US EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ABSTAINED ON TWO PROPOSED IDA LOANS
FOR ETHIOPIA INVOLVING IRRIGATION AND ROAD CONSTRUCTION/
IMPROVEMENT. HE MADE STATEMENT IN EXPLANATION OF VOTE
CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS IN ETHIOPIA. BOTH LOANS WERE
APPROVED. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPRESENTING ETHIOPIA
(THATHANAE OF LESOTHO) MADE NO COMMENT BUT THE DIRECTOR
FOR COLOMBIA/BRAZIL SAID HE DID NOT WELCOME INJECTION

OF POLITICAL FACTORS IN BANK'S DELIBERATIONS.

2. TEXT OF APPROVED STATEMENT AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: THE US IS ABSTAINING ON TWO PENDING WORLD BANK LOANS TO ETHIOPIA BECAUSE OF OUR GRAVE CONCERNS REGARDING THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THAT COUNTRY AT THIS TIME. REPORTS CONTINUE OF GROSS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING ARBITRARY EXECUTIONS, TORTURE AND OTHER INHUMANE TREATMENT, ARRESTS WITHOUT CHARGE, AND CLOSED TRIALS. THE RECENT REPORTS OF KILLINGS BY GOVERNMENT TROOPS OF STUDENTS AND OTHER SUSPECTED MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION REINFORCE THE VIEW THAT THE TREND IN ETHIOPIA IS AWAY FROM RESPECT

FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. REPORTS OF INCREASING DETENTIONS IN BOTH URBAN AND RURAL AREAS ALSO CORROBORATE THAT VIEW.

WHILE WE DEPLORE THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA, WE ARE SENSITIVE TO THE FACT THAT THESE TWO LOANS--ONE FOR DOLS 25 MILLION TO IRRIGATE 10,000 HECTARES OF LAND AND SETTLE ABOUT 800 FAMILIES; THE OTHER FOR DOLS 32 MILLION TO CONSTRUCT OR UPGRADE 8,000 KILOMETERS OF ROADS--ARE LIKELY TO BENEFIT DIRECTLY SEGMENTS OF THE ETHIOPIAN POPULATION THAT ARE MOST IN NEED. THUS, RATHER THAN ACTIVELY OPPOSING THE LOANS, WE HAVE CHOSEN THIS METHOD OF REGISTERING OUR GROWING CONCERN ABOUT THE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ETHIOPIA.

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IF HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS IN ETHIOPIA IMPROVE, WE STAND READY TO WORK WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AFFIRMATIVELY TO PROMOTE PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN ETHIOPIA. IF, HOWEVER, THEY CONTINUE TO DETERIORATE, WE BELIEVE A SERIOUS QUESTION WILL ARISE WHETHER LOANS TO ETHIOPIA, INCLUDING THOSE INTENDED TO AID PEOPLE MOST IN NEED, CAN IN FACT ACHIEVE THEIR OBJECTIVES.

3. CHARGE SHOULD, AT LEVEL AND MINISTRY HE DEEMS APPROPRIATE, IMMEDIATELY INFORM EPMG OF US ACTION AND STATEMENT. YOU MAY NOTE THAT BY VOICE AND VOTE IN THE IBRD AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO REFLECT ITS CONCERN WITH HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. SUCH ACTION BY THE US IS NOT RPT NOT LIMITED TO ETHIOPIA. US STATEMENT NOT RPT NOT MADE IN PUBLIC FORUM BUT IT SHOULD BE ASSUMED THAT THE ACTION WILL QUICKLY COME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PRESS.

4. PRESS GUIDANCE AS FOLLOWS:

Q: I UNDERSTAND THAT THE US REPRESENTATIVE ABSTAINED ON HUMAN RIGHTS GROUNDS ON TWO WORLD BANK LOANS TO ETHIOPIA. WOULD YOU COMMENT?

A: THE US ABSTAINED ON TWO PENDING WORLD BANK LOANS TO ETHIOPIA BECAUSE OF OUR GRAVE CONCERNS REGARDING THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION THERE. WHILE WE DEPLORE THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA, WHICH APPEARS TO BE DETERIORATING, WE ARE SENSITIVE THAT THESE TWO LOANS-- ONE FOR DOLS 25 MILLION TO IRRIGATE 10,000 HECTARES OF LAND AND SETTLE ABOUT 800 FAMILIES; THE OTHER FOR DOLS

32 MILLION TO CONSTRUCT OR UPGRADE 8,000 KILOMETERS OF ROADS--ARE LIKELY TO DIRECTLY BENEFIT ETHIOPIANS WHO ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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MOST IN NEED. THUS, RATHER THAN ACTIVELY OPPOSING THE LOANS, WE CHOSE THIS METHOD TO REGISTER OUR GROWING CONCERN. IF THE SITUATION IMPROVES, WE STAND READY TO WORK WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AFFIRMATIVELY TO PROMOTE PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN ETHIOPIA.

Q: ISN'T THIS A NEW DEPARTURE? ARE WE OBLIGED UNDER LAW TO DO THIS?

A: OUR ABSTENTION IS BASED SOLELY ON OUR POLICY TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS, WHICH POLICY WAS DEFINED BY SECRETARY VANCE ON APRIL 30. OUR POSITION ON THESE PENDING LOANS REFLECTS THE RESOLVE OF THIS ADMINISTRATION TO MAKE THE ADVANCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS A CENTRAL PART OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY.

Q: HAVE WE EVER VOTED AGAINST ANYONE ON HUMAN RIGHTS GROUNDS?

A: ONLY IN THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK. LAST JUNE, ON THE BASIS OF THE HARKIN AMENDMENT WHICH RELATES TO THE IDB, WE VOTED AGAINST A DOLS 21 MILLION INDUSTRIAL CREDIT LOAN TO CHILE.

5. ABIDJAN: PLEASE PASS TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFELE AND CHARGE TIENKEN. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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